

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated August 15, 2003. Allowable subject matter (as indicated by the Examiner) has been added to each independent claim. Thus, the application is in condition for allowance. In particular:

The subject matter of allowable claim 2 has been added to claim 1.

The subject matter of allowable claim 12 has been added to claim 11.

Claim 23 is allowable claim 7 rewritten in independent form.

Claim 24 is allowable claim 19 rewritten in independent form.

New dependent claims 25-32 correspond to previous dependent claims 2-6 and 8-10, respectively.

New dependent claims 33-42 correspond to previous dependent claims 12-18 and 20-22, respectively.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and that no new issues have been presented herein. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

YAMAMOTO et al.
Appl. No. 10/041,681
November 12, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Rhoa", is written over a horizontal line.

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